

whether the commission to get the autographs proved were granted or not.

The earliest accusation made about this evidence was to the effect that a *portion* only of the note of Mallet, and a *portion* again of a letter of John Alexander, of Antrim, had been taken out, and the present writing inserted to suit this case! and that Lord Stirling and his sons had been in Paris together, and had bought the map of Canada with the autographs upon it. The reader will afterwards find in this charge a singular resemblance to another, of which we shall have to speak, both being the suggestion of the same mind. In the first place it would appear that the writings were not considered as *altogether* forgeries. The wish may, afterwards, have created the belief. A thing, however, utterly impossible was to be represented; namely, that, by some *chemical* means we suppose, several lines of writing had been expunged, and others written in their place! The *whole* of these writings are now alleged to be forgeries; at least, it is asserted that they have a most suspicious and extraordinary appearance. Yet not only were they attested as genuine by most eminent individuals, not only were they examined and approved by many friends of Lord Stirling, but his very opponents were, after the most scrutinizing examinations, ready to admit them as the good and veritable handwritings of the parties whose signatures were attached. *Now*, however, hardly an individual unacquainted with the case is to be found who does not regard them with surprise and suspicion; so *altered*, so metamorphosed have these "respectable" writings, to use an expression very frequently dropped respecting them, become. This point at present passes all understanding, for (See Apperdx, No. 12) one scientific and experienced artist who has had frequent oppor-